

# Alaska: Burden of Chronic Diseases, 1996

## Cardiovascular Diseases

- Cardiovascular diseases accounted for 27% of all deaths in Alaska in 1996.
- Rates of death from cardiovascular diseases in Alaska were 24% higher among American Indians/Alaska Natives than among whites.
- Ischemic heart disease accounted for 303 deaths, or 12% of all deaths.
- Rates of death from ischemic heart disease were 29% higher among American Indians/Alaska Natives than among whites.

## Cancer

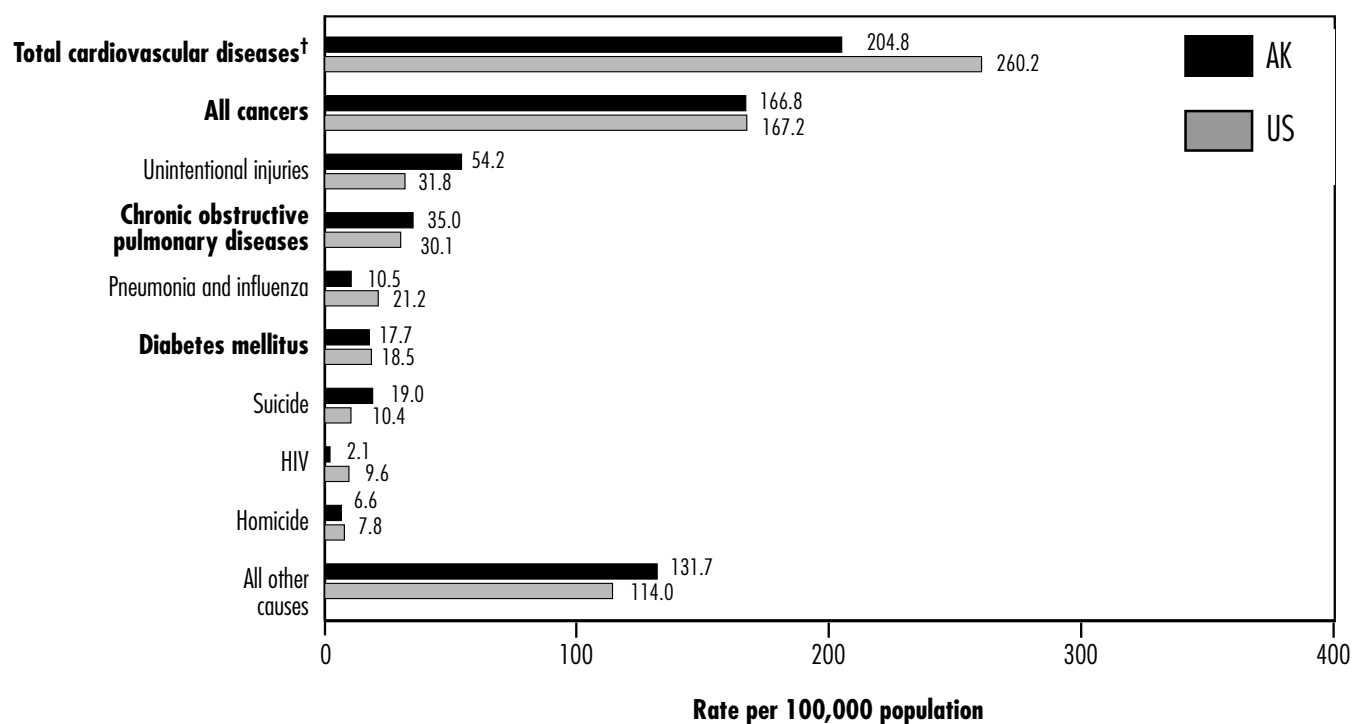
- Cancer accounted for 25% of all deaths in Alaska in 1996.
- Rates of death from lung cancer in Alaska were 52% higher among American Indians/Alaska Natives than among whites.

- The American Cancer Society estimates that 1,400 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Alaska in 1999, including 200 new cases of lung cancer, 200 new cases of colorectal cancer, 200 new cases of prostate cancer, and 200 new cases of breast cancer in women.
- The American Cancer Society estimates that 600 Alaska residents will die of cancer in 1999.

## Diabetes

- In 1996, 13,398 adults in Alaska had diagnosed diabetes.
- Diabetes was the underlying cause of 65 deaths and a contributing cause of an additional 110 deaths.

## Causes of Death, Alaska Compared With United States, 1996\*



\*Deaths per 100,000, age adjusted to 1970 total U.S. population.

†Total cardiovascular disease rates include rates of death due to ischemic heart disease (82.6 per 100,000 in Alaska and 131.0 per 100,000 in the United States) and rates of death due to stroke (43.4 per 100,000 in Alaska and 42.0 per 100,000 in the United States).

# Alaska: Risk Factors and Preventive Services, 1997 and 1998

## Risk Factors Among Adults

- Alaska had the seventh highest percentage of adults who reported current cigarette smoking in 1998.
- Smoking cigarettes was reported by 40% of American Indians/Alaska Natives, compared with 24% of whites.
- No leisure-time physical activity was reported by 33% of American Indians/Alaska Natives and 22% of whites.
- Eighty-five percent of Hispanics and 76% of whites reported eating fewer than five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.
- Among states, Alaska had the fifth highest percentage of adults classified as overweight according to self-reported height and weight.

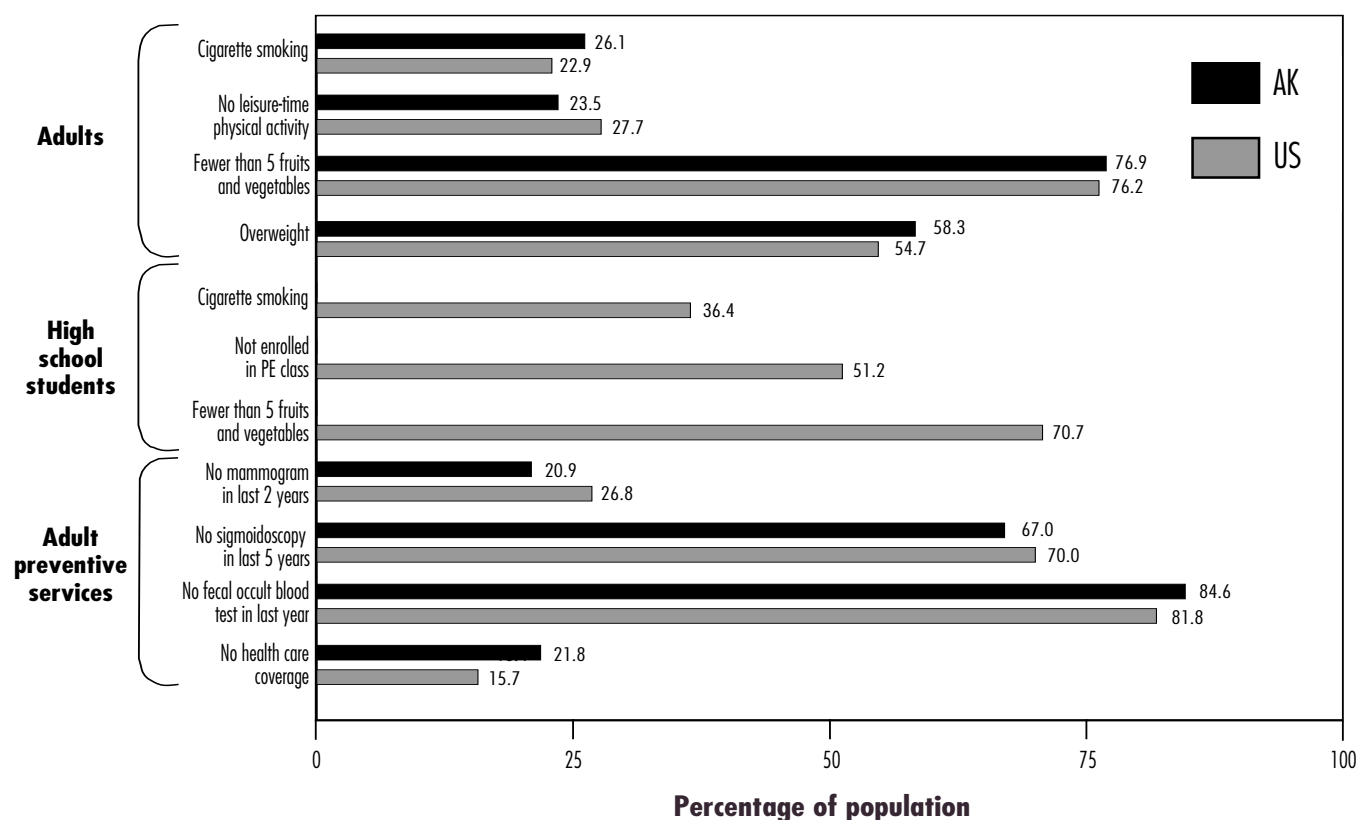
## Risk Factors Among High School Students

The 1997 YRBSS was not conducted in Alaska.

## Preventive Services

- Twenty-one percent of women aged 50 years or older reported not having had a mammogram within the last 2 years.
- Among adults aged 50 years or older, 72% of American Indians/Alaska Natives and 66% of whites reported not having had a sigmoidoscopy within the last 5 years.
- Among adults aged 50 years or older, 88% of American Indians/Alaska Natives and 84% of whites reported not having had a fecal occult blood test within the last year.
- Among states, Alaska had the seventh highest percentage of adults aged 18–64 years who had no health care coverage.
- Among adults aged 18–64 years, no health care coverage was reported by 38% of American Indians/Alaska Natives and 33% of Hispanics, compared with 18% of whites.

## Risk Factors and Preventive Services, Alaska Compared With United States



Source: CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997 and 1998.  
CDC, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 1997.